

Watch/Warning/Advisory (WWA) Working Group
Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2003

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the WWA Working Group was held on Thursday, December 4, 2003 to discuss WWA issues, problems, and concerns. The meeting was held in Silver Spring Metro Center (SSMC) Building II, Room 17250 and via teleconference.

2. Attendance:

Alaska Region -	Duane Carpenter (ARH)
Pacific Region -	Bill Ward (GUM)
Western Region -	Craig Schmidt (WRH)
Southern Region -	Melinda Bailey (SRH) Barry Goldsmith (TBW)
Central Region -	Greg Noonan (CRH)
Eastern Region -	Joe Palko (PBZ)
NWS HQ -	Iris Boon (OST23) Thomas Donaldson (OS32) Shucaí Guan (OST23) Ashley Kells (OPS21) James Lieu (OST23) Mark McInerney (OST23) Cecelia Mitchell (OST23) Sal Romano (OS11) Mohammed Sikder (OST23) Sean Webb (OST23) Wayne Weeks (OS21) Shannon White (OS6)

3. New Business:

A. Status of which OB3 WWA capabilities were changed since the OB3 WWA Testing meeting.

Ten changes were identified during the OB3 WWA Testing meeting in November 2003. Mark

McInerney provided a status of these changes while referencing the list of changes in the WWA OB3 Field/Regional Software Recommendations document. That is the list of changes which was provided in Section 5 of the OB3 WWA Testing Meeting minutes. Mark McInerney also referenced another document, the WWA Application Information Summary, which provides a summary of the big changes/new features contained in OB3 WWA. Mark informed the group that nine of the ten changes have already been implemented into OB3. The one remaining item (i.e., item 10, the attributes line in NPW/WSW) was addressed without modifying the software. Instead, instructions will be provided on how to make the necessary local customizations to the template files. These instructions will be provided in the OB3 WWA Users Guide. Then in OB4 the national template files will be modified to comply with this policy.

Members of the WWA Working Group have continued to test OB3 WWA at their sites and one problem which was identified yesterday was discussed. This problem involves the WWA Editor when a word is highlighted in order to replace it with another word by typing over it. An example was provided for when a the word (e.g., "SNOW") is highlighted and the user types the word "RAIN" over it. The problem is that "RAIN" doesn't replace "SNOW" instead "RAIN" is inserted next to the word "SNOW."

Since members of the WWA Working Group are continuing to use and test OB3 WWA, any additional problems they identify should be provided to Mark McInerney and Sal Romano. Depending on their severity, fixes for such problems may be able to be provided in an OB3 Maintenance Release. Even if the fixes have to wait to OB4, it is necessary to identify them so they can be prioritized.

B. Discussion of any review comments of the final draft of the WWA Application Information Summary document.

As mentioned above, the WWA Application Information Summary document summarizes the big changes/new features which are contained in OB3 WWA. The group was asked to review the document and to provide Mark McInerney with their review comments by Friday, December 12. It was noted that the Release Notes will contain a summary of everything that was changed in OB3 WWA while this WWA Application Information Summary document summarizes the large changes.

C. The best method to test OB4 WWA at and after the combined 2004 WWA Face-to-Face/OB4 WWA Testing meeting in February.

The combined 2004 WWA Face-to-Face (i.e., the annual WWA Workshop) and the OB4 WWA Testing meeting is still tentatively scheduled for mid to late February. Mark McInerney and Sal Romano will propose a firm date for that meeting in a couple of weeks. The date depends on the availability of the testing platform.

The plan is to format the OB4 WWA testing similarly to the OB3 WWA testing. That is, the first part of the testing will consist of the entire group participating in a large conference room with OB4 WWA projected on a screen. Then the group will be shown the new features and will step OB4 WWA

through various impromptu testing scenarios. After this, a small number of machines will be available for more individual testing. The group members will also be provided with a copy of OB4 WWA to take back to their sites for additional testing. In the meantime, as many of the identified modifications as possible will be made by a certain date and the updated OB4 WWA will be sent to the group members for additional testing. This testing process is beginning earlier for OB4, than it did for OB3, so there will even be more time to implement modifications.

D. With the WWA_CRS_HOT it is either all or nothing. Some folks would like the flexibility to set short-fused products (e.g., the SVR, TOR, FFW, FLW) to be broadcast automatically but would like to hold and QC longer fused products in the pending directory.

A request was made to provide the flexibility in OB4 WWA for some products/hazards (i.e., short-fused) to be automatically sent to the CRS for broadcast while others (i.e., long-fused) are to be held in a pending directory. This would provide time for the long-fused products to be quality controlled. It was noted, that a requirement for this capability will most likely be generated by the recently formed CAFÉ transition group.

E. What support will be provided for WWA after OB4.

The development of new large modules for WWA is planned to stop after OB4. Small changes (e.g., Directive changes) and bug fixes will continue to be made.

The task lead for the specification of requirements for the new warning tool is Bob Rood (SEC). We think Bob will request participants from each region and OS for a requirements specification team. The deployment of this new tool is scheduled for AWIPS OB6 which is approximately two years away.

F. The plans for VTEC testing at sites before it is implemented next year.

There will be a VTEC OT&E in the AWIPS OB3.1 time frame (i.e., Spring 2003). Nick Stengel will lead this task. The exact details are not yet available.

G. Additional Item:

G1. OB3 WWA Training

Shannon White informed the group that OB3 WWA teletraining will be available starting February 2004. Shannon White and Greg Noonan will provide this training. There will be five or six OB3 WWA training sessions so that every office will be able to participate before the national deployment of AWIPS OB3. AWIPS OB3 is scheduled to begin national implementation beginning early March 2004. This OB3 WWA teletraining will incorporate many of the suggestions which were provided during the OB2 WWA teletraining.

G2. WWA OB4 Use Cases document

Use cases are similar to detail requirements and job sheets. These Use Cases highlight the new capabilities that will be included in OB4 WWA. Mark McInerney went through a couple of the Use Cases to help the group become familiar with the Use Case format. The group was asked to review the remainder of the WWA OB4 Use Cases document. The group was also asked to provide review comments by January 9, 2004. However, if folks have comments available sooner they should be provided as soon as possible so that work could begin on any related software changes. It will be hard to make changes to the WWA OB4 design and software after January 9, 2004.

G3. Pacific Regions request to add products

Bill Ward (PR) requested assistance, from the WWA development team and OS, to add products specific to the Pacific Region within the WWA national baseline. At a minimum these products will include the Hazardous Surf Advisory/Warning and the Tropical Cyclone Advisories. Mark McInerney and Sal Romano said this could be done and advised Bill Ward to send them the descriptions of the products and some examples.

4. Action Items:

A. Provide Mark McInerney with review comments of the Watch, Warning, Advisory Application Information Summary document.

POC: WWA regional representatives; SUSPENSE: December 12, 2003; STATUS: Open

B. Provide Mark McInerney with review comments of the WWA OB4 Use Cases document.

POC: WWA regional representatives; SUSPENSE: January 9, 2003; STATUS: Open

C. Provide the date for the combined 2004 WWA Workshop and OB4 WWA Testing meeting.

POC: Mark McInerney, Sal Romano; SUSPENSE: December 2003; STATUS: Open

5. The next WWA working group teleconference will be on Thursday, **January 29, 2004** beginning at 3 p.m. EST. Please note that this is a change from our normal meeting day (i.e., the fourth Thursday of the month).